

ATTEWALL WOOTTON JR. AND MARGARET ELIZABETH OHLWILER WOOTTON



Attewall Wootton Jr., son of Attewall Wootton Sr., and Cynthia Jane Jewett. Born October 25, 1864, American Fork. Married Margaret Elizabeth Ohlwiler October 17, 1888, Logan Temple. Died November 6, 1930, Heber.

Margaret Elizabeth Ohlwiler, daughter of Henry and Eliza Jane (Baker Harvey) Ohlwiler, was born October 14, 1866, Heber. Killed in accident May 28, 1952.

Children:

Hazel, died in youth;
Leland, married Alvira Pace;
Roland, married Weda Pelton;
Mrs. Enos (Delma) Reece;
Mrs. Joseph (Edith) Gailey.

Attewall was born in American Fork, October 25, 1864, the oldest child of Attewall Wootton and Cynthia Jane Jewett. His par-

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er came to Wasatch County, settling in Midway, when he and his brother, John, were very small boys.

His father, being a teacher, spent much of time with school work, so when the two all boys were quite young, they began taking care of the farm. Attewall, Jr. grew under strict and careful training, the effects of which were evident throughout his life. He was taught by example as well as precept.

His school days were spent mostly under father's direction. Some time after he had graduated from the eighth grade, when he was about eighteen, his father asked him if he could handle the school at Wallsburg, where three or four teachers had been driven away by the students. He offered to try and finished up the school year successfully. This was his first of many years of teaching.

In 1883 and 84 he attended the Brigham Young Academy, an eventful year for the school when its building burned to the ground. Returning to Midway he began teaching for about \$40 a month.

During the summer months of one year he assisted in the construction of the Stake Tabernacle. As he rode back and forth in Midway on a horse, he had one quite rowing experience. At that time there was no bridge over Provo River and it had to be forded. While crossing one day during high water, his horse slipped and he was carried down stream, narrowly escaping being drowned by clinging to a clump of reeds.

His romance came about through his father. As superintendent of schools his father was visiting Henry Aird's school. One night at home he happened to remark that Lizzie Ohlwiler was certainly a smart girl. He became interested in this young man and at a dance in Heber, soon after that, he managed to meet her. Three years later, on October 17, 1888, they were married in the Logan Temple by Marriner W. Merrill.

Attewall was ambitious and industrious, braving winters and working in the mines or on farms in the summers.

Then followed another year in attendance at the Brigham Young Academy.

In 1903 he received a call for a mission before he left, his little daughter, Hazel, died of diphtheria and died within a week. A month later he left for the South Central States Mission.

One very interesting part of his mission was his work at the World's Fair in St. Louis, Missouri. He was placed at the Utah exhibit where he was to explain and preach the Gospel. He returned home in 1905.

For several years prior to his mission, he had been teaching in Heber. After he returned home he moved his family to Heber where he began teaching again. The remaining years of his teaching service were spent in Heber.

His life was one of service, both as a teacher in school and in the Church. Throughout his life he spent forty-seven years teaching. His students have said of him that he taught not only book learning but high ideals of citizenship and morals.

While he was strict in discipline, he was respected and liked as evidenced by the lasting friendships he formed with many of his students and by their tokens of esteem, gifts of many varieties.

In his service with the Church he acted as a member of the Stake Sunday School Board, and held the position of Stake Sunday School Superintendent for a number of years. He was also Stake Religion Class Supervisor. At the time of his death he was a member of the Stake High Council.

His life of service was finished on November 6, 1930, after several years of failing health.

Lizzie was born in Heber on October 14, 1866. Her earliest memories were of her school days which were spent in a little rock school house where the First Ward Chapel now stands. Her teachers were Elisha Jones, William and Henry Chaturin, William Buys and Henry Aird.

When nineteen she met Attewall Wootton, Jr., a young school teacher. They were married three years later.

The young couple moved into a brick four-room house in Midway which was built by Attewall for his bride.

During the years while her husband served on his mission, Lizzie served as president of the Primary in Midway besides caring for her family, boarding two lady school teachers and caring for the farm and stock with the help of the two small boys of fourteen and twelve.

She was a splendid homemaker. Her flower gardens were lovely. She proved a strength and help to her husband, her family and her community.

On April 1, 1906 upon Attewall's return, the family moved to Heber.

Following her husband's death she lived alone in her home, but she had many interests. She enjoyed keeping her home lovely and her yard beautiful with flowers. She spent some of her time visiting friends and family and in gathering the records and genealogy of her family.

While most of her life was spent caring for her family, she had through all these years been very active in church work. She was always very deeply religious, even in girlhood and had given many years of service to the Church. She joined the Relief Society shortly before her marriage and was a teacher in the Midway Relief Society for nearly 16 years. She also worked in the primary there as a teacher and as president.

After she moved to Heber she became an aide to Jeanette McMillan on the Primary Stake Board. In 1908 she became an aide to Josephine Broadbent, serving in this capacity for five years. In 1913 she was chosen first counselor to Sister Josephine Broadbent. In 1914 the Primary was reorganized and she became a counselor to Nellie DeGraff. This position she held for four years. She then was chosen as a counselor to Elizabeth Hicken in the Heber 3rd Ward Relief Society.

In 1922 she became President of the Relief Society, which office she held until 1930.

Her life ended on May 28, 1952, in a fatal vehicle accident in which her daughter Edith, who was so very close to her mother in life accompanied her in death.

Farmer



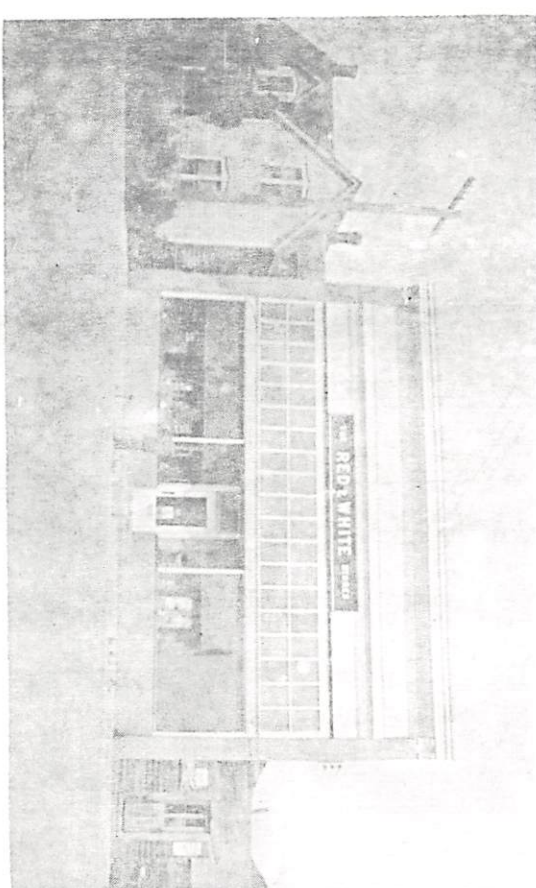
The North Mercantile Store in Charleston, one of the community's prosperous business firms for many years. It was closed down when the Deer Creek project inundated the area.

Those who settled Charleston were members of the Church, seeking freedom and an opportunity to worship according to the dictates of their consciences. Through the years, the L.D.S. Church has been the only religious group in Charleston, and has fostered peace and progress in the community.

David Walker, one of the early Charleston settlers, was the first presiding elder in the community, but served only a short time until he moved back to Salt Lake City. George Noakes was the next presiding elder, and served from about 1865 to 1866 when the settlement was disbanded during the Black Hawk War. Meetings were held in private homes up until that time.

When the people began resettling Charleston in 1867, Elder Noakes was again appointed presiding elder and served about a year. Elder John Watkins of Midway was then called to be presiding elder, and he traveled back and forth from Midway to conduct Church meetings. Since the first bridge over the Provo River between Charleston and Midway was not constructed until 1892, Elder Watkins often had to travel long distances until he could find a place to cross the river.

Elder Watkins directed the building of the first permanent chapel in Charleston in 1873, doing much of the building work himself. Counselors to Elder Watkins were George Powell and Enoch Richins. Later, Elder Powell moved away and Nymphus C. Murdock was called as first counselor. William Wright was first clerk in the Church and served for many years.



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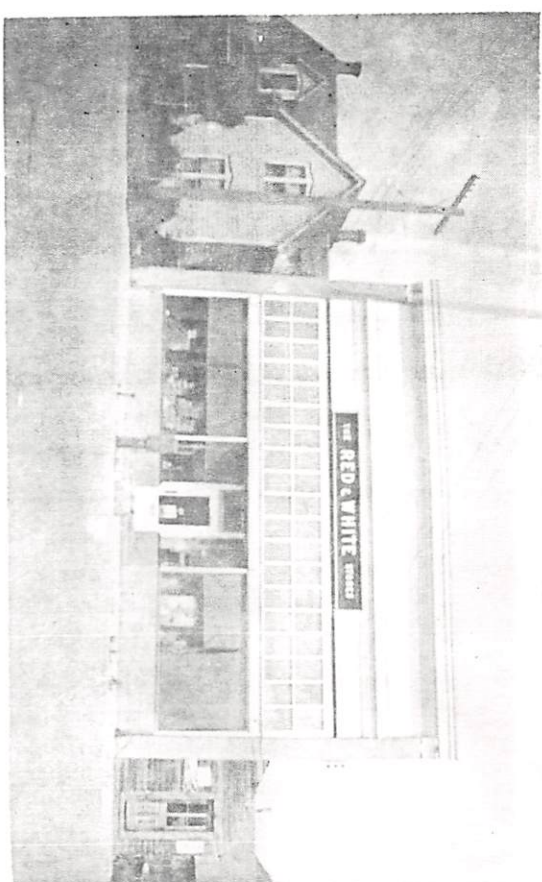
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1st Bridge Midway
to Charleston
Built 1892 P 1002
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P 1002
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Married Harriet Steele 1858 Salt Lake.
Endowed March 21, 1863.

Married Mary Ann Sawyer March 21,
1863, Salt Lake Endowment House. Died
December 23, 1902, Midway.

Margaret Ackhurst, daughter of Edward
Ackhurst and Elizabeth Wildish.

Born October 15, 1831, at Faversham,
England. Married John Watkins May 4,
1851, in England. Endowed March 21, 1863,
Salt Lake Endowment House. Died Febru-
ary 14, 1905, Midway.

Harriet Steel Watkins, daughter of John
Steel and Maria Woods. Born December
5, 1841, at Haverly, Stoford, England. Mar-
ried John Watkins 1858, Salt Lake City.
Endowed March 21, 1863, Endowment
House. Died March 11, 1884, Midway.

Mary Ann Sawyer Watkins, daughter of
Joseph Sawyer and Henrietta Tranham.
Born August 17, 1848, at Swansea, Wales.

Married John Watkins March 21, 1863,
Endowment House.

Died April 22, 1918, Salt Lake City, Utah.

John Watkins had seven brothers and one
sister.

The Watkins were a family of means and property. Architecture and building was a
profession handed down from a long line of
ancestors. It was natural that John should
be trained in his father's profession as an
architect and builder. He had a very fine
voice and had musical training. He was a
soloist in the cathedral. The family be-
longed to the Church of England.

John married at the early age of 17 to Margaret Ackhurst of Faversham. They moved to London where he readily found work at his trade. There he met the Elders of the LDS Church and was converted to Mormonism. He and his wife Margaret were baptized in 1852 by Elder William Eastorne and confirmed by George Denise in the Finsbury Chapel, London, England. His mother, a faithful member of the Church of England, became very bitter towards John when she found he had joined the Latter-day Saint Church. His father died and he was left to settle the estate as well as take care of his own financial affairs before he could leave England. He made great sacrifices in order to dispose of his property that he might emigrate to America. Finally, he and his wife Margaret and their two children sailed from Liverpool on the sail ship "Horizon" May 26, 1856, with 856 passengers all of the Mormon faith bound for Boston.

JOHN WATKINS AND WIVES



John Watkins, son of Thomas John Ed-
ward Watkins and Sarah Jordon.

Born April 13, 1834, at Maidstone, Kent,
England.

Married Margaret Ackhurst May 4, 1851,
England. Endowed March 21, 1863.

Edward Martin was captain of the company.
These emigrants reached Boston June 28,
1856, and traveled by boxcar to Iowa, the
outfitting point for that year's emigrants.
They built hand carts of green, unseasoned
wood with wooden axles and boxes which
caused much trouble later on. The provi-
sions which were very meager were pulled
on the carts and some small children rode.
Everyone old enough or strong enough had
to walk and help pull the carts. Edward
Martin was captain of the company with
Daniel Tyler assisting. John Watkins was
bugler.

They left Florence, Nebraska July 26, 1856,
and after a tedious journey full of incidents
of suffering hardship, freezing, exposure and
starving and running into an early snow
storm, they were met by a relief company
sent out by President Brigham Young. It
was a sad chapter in Church history. About
half of that company lost their lives. What
was left arrived in Salt Lake City Novem-
ber 30, 1856.

That same year he moved to Provo where
in that growing community he was in great
demand as a builder and also because of his
musical ability. In December, 1856 the first
brass band in Utah was organized and he
was called to be the leader. They played at
the first Territorial Fair in Salt Lake.

He donated a lot of time and talent on
the old LDS Tabernacle in Provo. In 1857 he
built Provo's first opera house as well as
stores, homes and other buildings.

He bought and owned the first organ in
Provo and south of Salt Lake. It was hauled
to Provo by ox team. As it was easy to
lift around, it became a community organ.
Whenever there was an entertainment, it
was loaded on a wagon and taken to accom-
pny the singers and sometimes to churches
and funerals as well. When the family
moved to Provo Valley, it served the same
purpose and popularity.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day
Saints was advocating plural marriage at
that time, and John Watkins with his great
faith and testimony was willing to obey the
Church leaders. He was a great friend of
Thomas Alsop. At their home he met Har-
riet Steel and they were married in Brig-
ham Young's office in 1858. Later when
the Endowment House was completed, he
took his wives, Margaret and Harriet, to be
sealed to him, and also at that time married
his third wife, Mary Ann Sawyer, March

21, 1863. After the ceremony they returned
to Provo where the three women and their
families lived together in one house.

In the summer of 1865 the Watkins fam-
ily left Provo, a fast growing and thriving
community, and entered the Provo Valley
with all their possessions to face the hard-
ships and pioneering of this more remote
section.

At this time the family consisted of John,
his three wives, and eight living children.
All three women had a small baby in long
clothes, as was the style for babies in that
day. Mary Ann's baby, Joseph, was born
July 10, 1864. Harriet's baby, Arthur, was
born October 22, 1864, and Margaret's baby,
Alfred, was born November 13, 1864. They
settled in the lower settlement on Snake
Creek.

Later when Indian troubles forced the set-
tlements to move together at the public
square called Fort Midway, the Watkins
family also moved there.

After the peace treaties with the Indians
the people of Fort Midway began moving
out of the fort; but instead of moving back
to the old settlement, they began building
their homes close to the fort. This became
the town of Midway.

John Watkins secured two pieces of land,
one a block south and east of the fort where
he built a rock house with three apartments
for his immediate needs. The other piece
of property was a block east of the fort.
Here he began to plan and build the house
of his hopes and dreams. He located the
clay, made the brick, sawed out the sand-
stone blocks, and built the first brick house
in Wasatch County in 1870.

He built other homes in Midway similar
to his own: one for George Bonner, Sr., one
for William Bonner, one for George Bonner,
Jr., one for William Coleman and several
in Provo and Springville.

On July 27, 1869 John Watkins was called
to preside over the Charleston Branch and
was ordained a Seventy. March 30, 1872
he was ordained a High Priest. He never
moved to Charleston, but traveled back and
forth, which at that time was very difficult
as there were no bridges. During high wa-
ter the mules would have to swim the river
and the water would come into the carriage
bed. He became strongly attached to the
Charleston people during the seven years
he presided over the branch.

At a conference held at Heber City July

14, 1877, John Watkins was set apart as First Counselor to David Van Wagenen who was appointed Bishop of Midway.

Building was John Watkin's line of work, so he had charge of the building and decorating of the new rock meeting house which was built on the old public square.

In January, 1893, Bishop Van Wagenen asked for his release as Bishop, and Apostle John Henry Smith came out to Midway. He stayed at the home of John Watkins as the visiting authorities always did. On the way to church in the afternoon, he told John Watkins he was there to reorganize the ward and he was to be the Bishop. He chose Alva J. Alexander as First Counselor and Conrad Abegglen as Second Counselor. He was ordained Bishop by Apostle John Henry Smith on January 29, 1893.

Bishop Watkins was a very forceful speaker. No one went to sleep in church while he was preaching. He was thoroughly converted in his beliefs and fearlessly and firmly presented them to others. He knew the Golden Rule and lived by it.

His duties as Bishop were many, caring for the poor and needy. At the time it was a great responsibility because so many emigrants arrived in need of work and help. The tithing was also a problem in those days, because it was paid in produce instead of cash and was anything people happened to raise. Sometimes things were not even saleable, but had to be accounted for in cash. They came in all hours of the day and someone had to be ready to weigh the hay, measure wheat or potatoes, see that they were properly protected from frost and weather. Many times produce had to be hauled to Park City to be converted into cash. Eggs, butter, chickens, fruit and cattle, all had to be taken care of until sold.

John Watkins served a number of years as select man of Wasatch County. He, with the help of Alva J. Alexander, engineered the Midway Waterworks System, and he became the first president. He built the first suspension bridge over the Provo River between Midway and Heber which gave good service with repairs on it until 1948 when it was replaced by a cement bridge.

He located the present cemetery site and with the assistance of Alva J. Alexander surveyed and platted it. At first it was owned and maintained by the Ecclesiastical ward, but later was turned over to the Midway Town.

When people died in the community at a time when coffins were hard to get, John Watkins built them of pine lumber and lined them with soft fluffy cotton and covered it with silk and trimmed the sides with lace. The outside was covered with velvet.

After a useful and busy life he passed away after a severe illness, December 23, 1902, and was buried on Christmas Day.

Margaret braved all the trials and sufferings of early pioneer life. She learned to be a midwife, and went among the people giving help and comfort wherever needed. Many people were too poor to pay for her services. No night was too dark and no storm too severe for her to brave to give relief to a woman in distress. On one occasion an Indian, by the name of Fisherman, came for her in the middle of the night. His wife was very ill in the wickiup on the Provo River Bottoms near Utah Lake. The Indian thought his squaw was going to die. Margaret went with him and was able to save his squaw and the little papoose. This happened during the troublesome times with the Indians. Sometime later the Indians planned an attack on Fort Midway. This Indian, Fisherman, crawled for several miles through the swamps and rushes in the river bottoms to warn the Watkins family of danger. Through this warning the settlers were prepared and drove the Indians back when they made the attack.

When the Watkins family moved to Midway, Margaret helped with all the pioneering of that section, helping the sick and needy. She was much in demand being the only midwife there and was called "Auntie" by the community. She was the mother of eight children. She died at Midway at the age of 74, and was buried in the Midway Cemetery.

Children of John Watkins and Margaret Ackhurst:

Mrs. Charles Edward (Elizabeth) Allen
John Thomas, married Mary Maria Clift
Edward, married Margaretha Abplanalp
Mrs. Nicholas (Mary) Andrews
Samuel Richard, died in infancy
Alfred, married Lenora Lewis
Fredrick, died in infancy
Charles, died at birth

Betsy, a half-sister of Harriet, married Thomas Alsop and they made their home near Salt Lake. Harriet lived with them. John Watkins and his wife, Margaret, visited the Alsops and met Harriet who was a

young, attractive girl. John Watkins asked Harriet to be his second wife. She consented and went to Provo to live with her husband and Margaret. John soon built a new house for his two wives and children. In 1865, they moved to Midway. Harriet was a kind, capable woman who loved her family and was devoted to her children. She was patient and wise. Her high intelligence was passed on to her offspring. On the night of March 10, 1884 one of the worst blizzards that had ever occurred in Midway raged over the valley. The snow drifts piled high. It seemed that the very end of the world had come. Harriet was frantic with fear. On the morning of the 11th, ill with labor pains, she gave birth to a baby son, Archie. Just when they thought everything was all right, quietly and peacefully, she died, leaving her little one-hour old baby.

Children of John Watkins and Harriet Steel:

Henry, married Jane Ellis Alder
David James, died in childhood
Lorenzo John, died in infancy
Arthur, married Emily Adelia Gerber
Mrs. John Edward (Laura) Clift
William, married Mary Elizabeth Busby
Mrs. John (Maria) Morton
Eva, died in infancy
Frank, married Esabel McKowen
Albert Ernest, married Mary Hannah Harrison
Sylvanus, married 1. Daisy Box, 2. Jessie Gills
Harriet Amy, died in infancy
Archie, married Julia Edna McCaffarty.

Mary Ann Sawyer Watkins, with her parents, joined The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Swansea, Wales.

Mary Ann Sawyer crossed the ocean with her mother and father and her ten-year-old sister on the sailing vessel "Samuel S. Curlin" in 1856. It was a long, slow voyage. Her father, Joseph Sawyer, cooked for the passengers to pay their passage to New York. Later the family moved to the New Jersey side, to a town called Tomas River which was a very historical place during the Revolutionary War. It had many industries and the opportunities for work were much better.

The Sawyers were anxious to emigrate to Utah to join the Latter-day Saints, so Mary Ann and her sister, Henrietta, picked cranberries and huckleberries in the bogs

earning money to add to the fund for emigrating to Utah.

James Brown and his brother, Sam, hauled freight to Salt Lake City, took contracts to assemble ox teams and covered wagons for the trip. James offered to bring the Sawyers to Utah if Mary Ann's father, Joseph Sawyer, would work all winter for him without pay, drive and care for two yoke of oxen and a covered wagon load of freight for this service. Mary Ann's mother rode in the wagon, but the father and the two girls had to walk all the way and help drive the loose stock. The possessions they could take included some bedding, a few dishes, cooking utensils, clothing and food.

Joseph Sawyer fulfilled his part of the contract and expected to leave in the spring of 1860; but James Brown refused to take him in the first company, and he had to come a few weeks later with the next company.

Jesse Murphy was captain of the company. They had a hard, tiresome trip as was common to the pioneers, on one occasion they were attacked by Indians, but were miraculously saved and left unharmed. They arrived in Salt Lake City late in the summer of 1860. There they lived for some time enduring hardship and privation.

Mary Ann's father managed to buy a lot in the business section of Salt Lake City. When the family moved to Provo, her father sold the lot for a bushel of potatoes and a pair of secondhand shoes.

After they moved to Provo, they soon became active in all the pioneer activities of the community. Mary Ann and her sister, Henrietta, were very attractive young women and became very popular in social activities.

At this time John Watkins was leader of the Provo Brass Band and very popular in musical circles. He became attracted to Mary Ann, and married her as his third wife with full consent of his two wives.

Mary Ann took an active part in Church affairs of the town. She suffered all the hardships and privations of pioneer life, helping in the fields, gleaning wheat, and assisting in every way possible. She took an active part in civic affairs. She had a good voice and was active in concerts, choirs and early dramas of the town and county.

For many years she was counselor to Charlotte Gurney in the Midway Relief Society. At the death of Sister Gurney she

became president of the organization in 1892 and served in that capacity until 1903.

Her responsibilities were great, caring for the poor and needy, sewing for and taking care of the dead, as there were no undertakers in those days, and she sang at most of the funerals.

When Harriet died, she left nine motherless children, one only an hour old. Mary Ann took the entire family and became mother to them. In addition, she had eleven children of her own, making a total of twenty children she had to mother.

When her husband, John Watkins, became Bishop, it added many new responsibilities for her, but she never complained. She had a cheerful disposition, radiated sunshine wherever she went, making many friends.

After the death of John Watkins, she sold the home at Midway and moved to Salt Lake where she later married John Halbom. She died at Salt Lake City and was buried in the Wasatch Lawn Cemetery.

Children of John Watkins and Mary Ann Sawyer:

Joseph Watkins, married Elinor Blood

Thomas John Edward, died in infancy

Walter, died in youth

Mrs. Fredrick (Henrietta) Barben

Mrs. William (Mary Ann) Schaer

George Tranham Watkins, married Sarah

Frances Ohlwiler

Mrs. Edward A. (Margaret) Probst

Mrs. Orson Thomas (Sarah Ruby) Speirs

Nymphus Jay, married Estella Thomas

Tracy Sawyer, married Hannah Florence Young

Mrs. Keros Harry (Lily) Serle.

Pete Truesdale
before
this



Old Steel Midway Lane
Bridge

